



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

31 MAY 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

Subject: Authorities and Assumptions Related to Rotational Use of the National Guard

1. As the Department of Defense reacts to the current fiscal crisis and plans for future austerity, I find it essential to clarify the National Guard position on rotational policies and their impact on force planning assumptions.
2. The National Guard is all in. In consultation with the Council of Governors and the Adjutants General, we commit the National Guard to boots-on-the-ground deployments for one-year within a three-year period for unplanned contingency operations and one-year within a five-year period for longer, steady-state operations (current ARFORGEN model). Further, we commit the National Guard to more frequent rotational use, up to the maximum limits of presidential or congressional authorities, when required to meet the needs of any national emergency. Effective use of the National Guard should enable the active component to achieve a deploy-to-dwell ratio necessary to maintain a healthy force.
3. Further, the Council of Governors, the Adjutants General and I also strongly encourage the Department of Defense and the Services to fully apply 10 U.S.C. § 12304b authorities, placing National Guard units into operational use throughout the world against long-term, predictable requirements such as Kosovo, the Sinai, the Horn of Africa, Guantanamo Bay, sustained security force train and assist missions in Afghanistan, and special operations deployments elsewhere. Doing so allows for increased full-spectrum focus of the Active Component and allows operational pressure necessary to maintaining seasoned leadership within National Guard units.
4. Authorities given to the President and the Secretary of Defense, as limited by the Secretary's own policies, should govern the rotational usage of the National Guard in force planning assumptions. All other policies derived to add predictability for members of the reserve component force over the last 12 years generally accomplished their intended purpose. We recognize many low density units rotated more frequently. These additional policies, however, should not drive hard and fast assumptions about the future. Two-year notice, nine-months boots on the ground, 30-day individual notice, not more than 50 percent of a states' force structure deployed at once and other policies were helpful over the last decade, but they should not govern force planning assumptions for future contingencies.

5. The National Guard continually demonstrates its willingness and ability to accomplish all assigned missions. Our well-proven ability to achieve the commitments we give you today ensures their worth for the future. The attached chart illustrates this history.

6. The National Guard remains always ready, always there.



FRANK J. GRASS

General, USA

Chief, National Guard Bureau

Attachment:

As stated

cc:

DSD

Director, CAPE

CJCS

USD(P)

SecArmy

ASA(M&RA)